



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE

POLICY TEMPLATE

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students

2020

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2020

BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr Joe McHugh TD's announcement on 10th April 2020 and subsequently on 29th April,

- All third year Junior Cycle students are to be awarded certificates for the completion of Junior Cycle by the Department of Education and Skills.
- Schools are given autonomy to assess students and all students to receive a report on achievement.

Schools are also being given autonomy to decide whether to run school-based assessments and what form they take. Options to consider include school-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks agreed at a local level. Guidance for schools on reporting to students and parents, developed with the advice of the advisory group of stakeholders, will be published by the Department.

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that Our Lady's School will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 29th.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Our Lady's School assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2020 provide for the inclusion of the following components

- Recognition of Prior Learning
- May 2020 Assessment

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning	May 2020 Assessment
<i>Total Weighting: 50%</i>	<i>Total Weighting: 50%</i>

Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.

Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded.

All components to be completed and marked by May 29th, 2020. An assessment report will be issued electronically using the VSware platform during the week beginning June 8th. If you are having difficulties logging into VSware, then please mail password@olschool.ie

BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Recognition of Prior Learning

The recognition of Prior Learning is an important part of our assessment process. In line with the overarching principle of flexibility, the following approach will apply:

The final Grade Descriptor will be awarded for:

- Learning from 1st Year and 2nd Year – House Feb & Summer Exams together with the Mock Examination results from 3rd Year
- Summer 2020 assessment (3rd Year)

EXAMPLE: Recognition of Prior Learning Component:	
<i>Total Weighting</i>	50%
<i>Elements of Prior Learning Recognised</i>	1st & 2nd Year House examinations in February and May plus the Mock Examination in February of 3rd Year

This decision was informed by the DES Guidelines (issued April 29th, 2020)

To ensure equity, greater weighting should be given to work that was completed by students in advance of the closure of schools on 12 March 2020.

Cognisance may be given to work completed after that date but teachers should have regard to the impact that school closure will have had on students' ability to engage with further learning after 12 March 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assessment tasks.

For example, some students may be unable to undertake any additional assessment tasks because of issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis. In such circumstances, the assessment of the students' learning, and the report of their achievement issued by the school, may be based solely on work completed prior to 12 March 2020.

2. May 2020 Assessment

In line with the timetable forwarded to the students, each Department will release their assessments at the assigned time with the expectation that the students will submit by the assigned deadline.

Students will be advised of the format and duration of each subject assessment.

If any student encounters a difficulty in submitting the assignment they should contact the subject teacher without delay and work to resolve the issue

Assessment Components

1. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING OPTIONS

- Evidence available from tests, from House Examinations completed in 1st and 2nd Year
- Mock Examination results from February in 3rd Year*
- CBAs that have been completed and examined through the SLAR process will be reported on

* Any student who has dropped level since the Mocks will have their result changed to an Ordinary Level grade in line with the appropriate conversion

2. MAY 2020 ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

- School-designed examinations
- Tasks
- Projects
- Assignments
- Essay style questions
- Presentations
- Other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level

Communication to Parents

Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2020



INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that Our Lady's School will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES



The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 29th. An assessment report will issue electronically using the VShare platform during the week beginning June 8th 2020

- A final grade/grade descriptor will be awarded for each subject based on the Recognition of Prior Learning and the May 2020 Assessment
- The final assessment grade will be assigned based on the outcome of the results achieved through the following area(s)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component for the period of 2017 to 2020	May 2020 Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence available from House Examinations completed in February and May of 1st Year and 2nd Year • Evidence available from the Mock Examination held in February of 3rd Year • Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year will be reported on 	<p><i>Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below will be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-designed examinations, tasks, reflective task, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations or other tasks chosen by Departments from the range of approaches agreed at school level.
<i>Total Weighting: 50%</i>	<i>Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: 50%</i>

- Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.
- Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded.

Principal: 	Date: 12th May, 2020
Chair (BOM): 	Date: 12th May, 2020

Appendix 3

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Your young person needs your support during this challenging time, particularly in terms of engaging with assessment.
- Your young person's wellbeing is paramount at this time. Ensure he/she is eating healthily, taking time for exercise/activities and striking a balance between schoolwork and downtime.
- Assure your young person that assessments are an opportunity to celebrate their learning.
- Be familiar with each subject department's plan for assessment.
- Check in regularly to see if your young person is reaching his/her targets.
- Ensure your young person has the materials they require for engaging in assessments.
- Display relevant information somewhere prominent to help your young person remain focused for the remainder of the term
- If your young person misses a deadline for the key assignments for a genuine reason (illness, broadband issues, etc.) please contact the subject teacher who will endeavour to ensure every student has a fair chance to complete the work.
- It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school in the event you're your young person does not engage with an assessment. Measures can be taken to encourage engagement.
- Highlight the importance of engaging with assessment at this point in their education. While it may not take the form they had originally anticipated, it is a milestone in their education, and they will want to do their best.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your young person's engagement or progress, please contact the subject teacher who will be delighted to advise and support you.

Our Lady's values your support to date and requests your assistance in maintaining the integrity of the May 2020 Assessment, by ensuring that the instructions issued with each assessment are followed.

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- Assessments are an opportunity to celebrate your learning.
- Engage with your teachers and your classes for the remainder of the term.
- Organise a workspace that will help you to concentrate on the task in hand.
- Be aware of your assessment timetable. Know exactly when you have assessments, project deadlines etc.
- Communicate with your teachers if you are unclear about arrangements.
- While the format of the assessment may differ from what you expected, it is still important, and you should give it your very best shot.
- Organise the materials/books/technology you need for your assessments in advance. Do not leave it until the last minute.
- Approach your assessments as you would in school
 - ~ Follow school rules (social media, eating, chatting etc.)
 - ~ Stick to allocated timeframes

Respect the assessment process – it is ‘your own’ work that is being assessed, not ‘work belonging to somebody else’